

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 EB-07 SCA-01 H-01 INR-07

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P 042100Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3660

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUAYAQUIL 213

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, PLOS, EC US

SUBJ: SEIZED U.S. TUNA VESSELS: NEPTUNE AND E. K. STROM

1. EVENING OF FEB. 3 CAPT. BURICH (NEPTUNE) AND CAPT. RICO (A. K. STROM) MADE DECLARATIONS TO SALINAS PORT CAPTAIN CONCERNING SEIZURES THEIR TUNA BOATS. CONSUL GENERAL AND CONSUL LEVY PRESENT WHEN DECLARATIONS MADE. CAPT. BURICH STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN CAPTURED ABOUT 70 MILES OFF ECUADOREAN COAST AT LOCATION RECOGNIZED BY U.S. TO BE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. HE STATED HE HAD ABOUT 180 TONS OF FISH ON BOARD WHEN SEIZED, ALL CAUGHT OUTSIDE OF ECUADOREAN-CLAIMED TERRITORIAL WATERS AS SHOWN BY ENTRIES IN HIS LOG BOOK.

2. CAPT. RICO SAID HE HAD BEEN SEIZED ABOUT 65 MILES OFF ECUADOREAN COAST AT LOCATION RECOGNIZED BY U.S. TO BE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. HE ADMITTED THAT WAS THIRD TIME A. K. STROM HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES AND THAT HE HAD BEEN MASTER ON ALL THREE OCCASIONS. HE SAID THAT IN 1973 HE PURCHASED ECUADOREAN LICENSE FOR FISHING OFF GALAPAGOS ISLANDS AND WOULD HAVE PURCHASED ONE FOR THIS FISHING SEASON BUT HAD BEEN TOLD BY ECUADOREAN CONSUL IN PANAMA THAT THIS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE A. K. STROM GREATER THAN 600 NRT. CAPT. RICO STATED THAT HE HAD ABOUT 300 TONS OF FISH ON BOARD WHEN CAPTURED, ALL CAUGHT OUTSIDE ECUADOREAN-CLAIMED WATERS AS SHOWN BY ENTRIES IN HIS LOG BOOK.

3. SAME EVENING CAPTAIN OF PANAMANIAN FLAG TUNA VESSEL EL PERO MADE
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DECLARATION RE HIS SEIZURE TO PORT CAPTAIN. BOAT WAS FISHING WHEN

CAPTURED. CAPTAIN DECLARED HE HAD 110 TONS OF FISH ON BOARD, 90
CAUGHT WITHIN ECUADOREAN-CLAIMED TERRITORIAL WATERS. CAPTAIN TOLD
CONSULAR OFFICERS THAT JAIME VALDEZ, WHO WAS PRESENT IN SALINAS
WHEN DECLARATIONS MADE, IS PANAMANIAN MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND
GENERAL TORRIJOS' APPOINTMENT SECRETARY. EL PERRO SAID TO BE OWNED
BY VALDEZ (25 PER CENT), GENERAL TORRIJOS (25 PER CENT), AND REST BY
OTHERS.

4. FOR PANAMA: PLEASE INFORM US WHAT POSITION, IF ANY, VALDEZ HOLD
WITH PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT.
DEWITT

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Message Attributes

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